

10-12-17

EPA Trains State Department Embassies in Africa on Lead Paint

Last week EPA worked with the U.S. Department of State to conduct a third lead paint training for Environment, Science, Technology and Health (ESTH) officers in Sub-Saharan Africa, following trainings in South America and Central Asia. The training was well received with many questions and a robust dialogue. The State Department gave an overview of the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly in December, including the U.S. proposed lead paint resolution. The U.S. is seeking partner countries to support this resolution, which calls for a global phase out of lead paint. Over 90% of countries in Africa still allow lead paint manufacturing and sale. ESTH officers in Africa were clearly interested in how to bring this topic into discussions with their counterparts in Africa, given often intractable problems related to lead exposure from mining and informal smelting. EPA emphasized that eliminating lead paint is a relatively simple policy solution that will result in large economic and health gains for African countries by preventing significant health and IQ loss in children from exposure to lead. The economic impacts of such losses often exceed development assistance funding in African countries. Several ESTH officers asked for follow up information on lead paint data and testing. EPA will work with the State Department to follow up on these issues. [Bandemehr, Huber, Hill-Macon]

10-19-17

United Nations Environment Lead Paint Project Planning Meeting

Last week EPA participated in a planning meeting for a UN Environment Lead Project funded by the Global Environment Facility. The meeting was attended by UN Environment, the World Health Organization, industry and environmental NGO representatives, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, and UN Cleaner Production Centers. Participants discussed needed actions to meet the project goal of establishing lead paint laws in 40 countries. Project components include working with small businesses to showcase best practices to use lead-free paint additives, raising awareness of consumers and policymakers, and providing a model law to help countries develop their own laws. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) has created many tools that will be used in this project, including a Model Law and Guide to Establishing Lead Paint Laws, a Global Status Update of Laws, an on-line toolkit of resources and many more. EPA is the Chair of the Alliance and helped create all of these tools. The meeting provided UN Environment with concrete actions and target countries that will inform the project proposal going forward. EPA will be part of Project Steering Committee to help guide the project as it is implemented. [Smith, Bandemehr]

10-26-17

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2017

EPA plays a key role as chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, a global partnership led by UN Environment and the World Health Organization to eliminate lead in paint globally. Each year, the Alliance organizes a week of action to help individuals, organizations, industry and governments work together to ban lead from paint. This year's campaign took place October 22-28. In preparation for the week, EPA and our global partners developed a full suite of organizing tools, graphics and social media resources, now available at <https://trello.com/b/AmFq8zWK/lead-paint>. To support countries in developing legal limits, the Alliance developed a Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint and a 2017 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead Paint, both now available at <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/technology-and-metals/lead/lead-paint-alliance/resources/meetings-and-events/resources>. The World Health Organization reports that so far 47 events have been registered in 38 countries for this year, and a robust social media conversation is taking place on twitter using the hashtag #banleadpaint. During the campaign, governments, businesses and civil society organizations are being encouraged to make a voluntary commitment to eliminate lead paint in the lead up to the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3). More information about the week is available on the WHO website at http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/. [Marzouk, Bandemehr, Smith, Sims, McCann, Cappuccilli, Leonard, Sellars]

11-2-17

North American Consultation for the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) Walker Smith, Director of the Office of Global Affairs and Policy, represented the United States at the North American Consultation for UNEA 3, which was hosted by the Honorable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and a former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program. The Consultation was attended by a broad range of stakeholders, including the US and Canadian governments, Toronto Public Health, industry, NGOs, and academia. The Consultation featured panels on the economics of pollution and opportunities for change, and reducing pollution in urban environments, as well as presentations from the government representatives. Walker advised the stakeholders of the USG priorities for UNEA 3, including resolutions on lead paint and water monitoring, advancing the link between environment and health, and discussing air pollution monitoring in developing countries at the Science/Policy/Business forum. The key messages from the Consultation for UNEA 3 included strong support for the Lead Paint Resolution. [Smith]

11-16-17

Discussion of Lead Paint Resolution with the Government of Argentina

This afternoon EPA and the US State Department will have a call with the Government of Argentina, which has agreed to co-sponsor the US Government-proposed lead paint resolution for the UN Environment Assembly in December. Argentina supports the lead paint resolution as written, which promotes adoption of lead paint laws by countries globally. The US and Argentina will likely submit a joint draft to UNEA in the coming weeks. This is an important development, as Argentina has said it will work with the rest of the Latin American region and also the G-7 to garner support for the resolution. This will elevate the need for lead paint laws to the ministerial level and ensure momentum toward elimination of lead paint. [Smith, Bandemehr, Besch, Finman]

11-9-17

Discussion of Lead Paint Resolution with the Government of Argentina

EPA and the State Department had a follow up call with the Government of Argentina last week. Argentina agreed to co-sponsor the US Government-proposed lead paint resolution for the UN Environment Assembly in December, and further advised that they are working with Columbia and Latin American countries to get support for the resolution in the region. Argentina and the US agreed on slight edits to the US-proposed language and will submit a joint draft to the UN Environment Program until the Committee of Permanent Representatives. [Smith, Bandemehr, Besch, Finman]

11-9-17

Third UN Environment Assembly Prep Meeting

OITA and OGC participated in the final preparatory meeting, hosted by the State Department, for the UN Environment Programme's Environment Assembly, to be held from December 3-6, with preparatory negotiations and a science-business-policy forum proceeding the meeting. The USG is proposing two resolutions (lead paint and water quality), participating in panels on air quality monitoring and lead paint, in addition to negotiation a plethora of resolutions submitted by other countries and attending the Ministerial Segment. [Smith, Finman, Rourke, Besch]

11-30-17

UN Environment Assembly Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives Meeting

EPA participated in the Open Ended CPR meeting for the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), which begins next week at UN Environment Programme Headquarters in Nairobi. OITA and OGC are part of the U.S. delegation, which is led by the Department of State and also includes NOAA. EPA is leading and/or assisting in negotiations on lead paint, marine litter, water, biodiversity, and soil pollution. EPA succeeded in getting Africa region co-sponsorship of the draft lead resolution, which now includes language on lead acid batteries. [Smith, Finman, Epp, Besch, Rourk]

12-7-17

Presentation to Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

On November 30, PDAA Jane Nishida presented on EPA's international efforts on lead paint and mercury to the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) as part of their regular two-day meeting. The presentation included activities of the Lead Paint Alliance, the new Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint, promoting lead paint laws at UNEA3, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, worldwide mercury pollution, and EPA's mercury-related international activities. A representative from the American Academy of Pediatrics expressed support for lead paint efforts, and questions were asked about engaging Africa, targeting paint producers, and whether any developing countries are remediating existing paint. EPA also addressed questions related to U.S. obligations in the Minamata Convention and the use of leaded aviation fuel. Ruth Etzel, Director of the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection, offered her public praise for OITA's international work, prompting applause from the group. [Marzouk, Ankrah, Sims, Bandemehr, Nishida]

United Nations Environment Assembly

EPA was part of the successful USG delegation to the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3), which concluded this week. OITA and OGC were the EPA representatives on the delegation, and successfully negotiated a number of resolutions, including two US sponsored resolutions, one on Lead Paint and Waste Lead Acid Batteries and one on Water, as well as marine litter, soil, and procedural resolutions. OITA and EPA representatives from the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Research and Development also gave presentations at important sessions of the Science Policy and Business Forum of UNEA 3, including the opening plenary session, air quality monitoring sessions, and a session on the business case for the elimination of lead paint. EPA principals Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of OITA and Sarah Greenwalt, Senior Policy Advisor to the Administrator, represented EPA at numerous sessions, including the opening plenary, and held numerous bilateral meetings to advance EPA policies. [Smith, Finman, Epp, Besch]

OITA Co-Leads Caribbean Workshop on Establishing Lead Paint Laws

As part of ongoing efforts through the Lead Paint Alliance, EPA participated in a UNEP-sponsored Caribbean Workshop on Establishing Lead Paint Laws hosted by the University of West Indies Norman Manley Law School December 1 in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop was hosted by the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean and included EPA representatives from OITA and OCSPP. The workshop provided the first opportunity to present the Lead Paint Alliance's new model law in a country currently without a strong lead paint law. Working in partnership with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the engagement included a half-day meeting with officials from the Jamaican government to better understand their legal structure and to explore ways to develop or modify their laws. The workshop is seen as a pilot for a forthcoming project under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which will operate from 2018-2020 and will use the model law to encourage governments to establish their own regulations, standards, and laws. Participating in the workshop were a range of officials from the Jamaican government, including among many, the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Mining, and the Standards Bureau. The meeting also involved representatives from 3 local paint manufacturers/suppliers, NGOs, regional bodies the Organization for Eastern Caribbean States and Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and a representative from Panama, who provided a case study on how lead paint laws are implemented in Panama. Other speakers included representatives from the Pan-American Health Organization describing the health effects of lead exposure, and a representative from a Mexican NGO working with IPEN to highlight their work in Mexico and offered the opportunity for paint-testing in the region. All in attendance agreed that mandatory legal limits on lead paint were important to protecting people and agreed to considering the model law to fit their legal framework, and also volunteered to be leaders on this issue in the Caribbean region. Based on the success of the workshop, a follow-up GEF-funded UNEP project to provide technical assistance to Jamaica is being discussed. [Bandemehr, Huber, Maher, McCann]

1-18-18

Meeting with US and International Paint Industry Association on International Lead Paint Action

OITA and OCSPP met with the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), which also represents the US paint industry, and is a major industry partner of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). IPPIC supports the elimination of lead paint through the promotion of lead paint laws in developing and middle income countries, which largely do not regulate lead paint. The Lead Paint Alliance's work to promote laws will help level the playing field and provide regulatory certainty to US and other businesses operating globally. Lead paint laws will also protect US citizens by ensuring that products imported to the US do not contain lead paint. At the meeting, IPPIC agreed to be a partner in an upcoming UN Environment managed, Global Environment Facility funded project to promote lead paint laws, which will be launched early this year. IPPIC, EPA, the World Health Organization, IPEN (a

global environmental NGO), and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative will be part of the Project Steering Committee for the project and will help direct activities in developing countries toward establishing laws. [Smith, Bandemehr]

1-25-18

Meeting on the UN Environment Global Environment Facility Project on Lead Paint Work with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Last week EPA participated in a virtual meeting on the UN Environment Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on Lead Paint Work with Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The GEF Lead Paint Project has two parts: work on lead paint laws and work with SMEs to promote phase out of lead paint. Both parts work closely together to ensure the development and implementation of effective lead paint laws by ensuring that the paint industry is ready to comply with laws and enabling law makers to understand the paint industry needs. Lead paint laws are the principal mechanism to ensure elimination of lead paint but SMEs need extra assistance in sourcing lead-free additives and making the facility changes needed to eliminate lead paint. This meeting was hosted by UN Environment and included EPA and National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) in seven countries (China, Jordan, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Indonesia, Ghana) with no laws or laws needing improvement. The Serbia NCPC will coordinate across all of the countries. NCPCs will work closely with SMEs in those countries to showcase alternatives to lead paint and facilitate reformulation of paint to meet a future new or improved regulatory standard. In addition, NCPCs will coordinate with the law portion of the project to help promote laws. The NCPC in Barcelona, with funding from the European Union, will provide additional technical assistance to the project through paint industry consultants and trade fairs between suppliers of lead-free paint additives and paint companies. [Bandemehr, Huber]

EPA Meets with Director of UN Environment Regional Office for North America to Discuss Joint Work on International Lead Paint

EPA, OITA, OGC and OCSPP met with Barbara Hendrie, Director of the UN Environment Regional Office for North America and staff, to discuss future joint work on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). The Regional Office for North America has prioritized lead paint as a focus area for action and is a key partner to advance the goals of the Lead Paint Alliance. Ms. Hendrie is seeking to help bolster UN Environment efforts to promote lead paint laws, which most recently received a renewed mandate to work on this issue from UN Environment Member States through a resolution on lead paint at the UN Environment Assembly. UN Environment has received Global Environment Fund resources to promote laws and Ms. Hendrie and EPA agree that UN Environment needs to engage at the country level as much as possible to do this. Ms. Hendrie works with UN Regional Directors in all regions and is helping to raise their awareness of this issue, so that they can promote it in their regions. [Smith, Bandemehr]

Coordination Meeting for Lead Paint Activities in the Central and Eastern European Region

OITA, ORBA, OCSPP and OGC chaired a virtual meeting with UN Environment, the World Health Organization (global office in Geneva and Central and Eastern European (CEE) regional office in Bonn, Germany), and the US Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program (DOC/CLDP) to discuss progress and coordinate activities on lead paint laws in the CEE region. UN Environment gave an overview of the Lead Paint Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project, which will focus on several countries in this region to promote lead paint laws and which will work closely with WHO, EPA and other partners to implement the project. WHO reported that lead paint will be highlighted at the upcoming CEE regional meeting for the Strategic Approach for Chemicals Management (SAICM) and invited input from EPA on the agenda and presentations. WHO also plans on approaching countries about participation in the GEF Lead Paint Project as pilot countries to begin using the Alliance Model Law for Lead Paint. The US DOC/CLDP provided an overview of its work with standards officials in Central Asia on lead paint standards and that Kazakhstan has shown particular interest in developing a lead paint standard or law. As a member country of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Kazakhstan is the lead for developing a lead paint technical regulation for the EAEU. WHO and US DOC/CLDP will be in Kazakhstan at the same time and agreed to coordinate their outreach to the relevant ministries to promote the rapid passage of a lead paint technical standard. [Bandemehr, Buckley]

2-1-18

Brazil Working to Revise its Lead Paint Law

The Brazilian National Chemical Safety Commission (CONASQ), coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, is seeking public comment on a revision to the current law on lead paint, which would reduce the limit from 600 ppm to 90 ppm and revise the list of exemptions. 25% of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have a lead paint law including Brazil. All but one country has set the lead paint limit at 600 ppm. Brazil is the first country with an existing law to consider lowering this limit to 90 ppm, which is the limit used in the US and also recommended by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint in its Model Law and Guidance to Regulate Lead Paint. EPA and other Alliance partners will comment on the draft revision of the lead paint law. [Bandemehr, Mercurio]

2-8-18

OITA Meeting with Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment

OITA PDAA Nishida met with Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment and Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations to discuss areas of shared interest and plans for the next UN Environment Assembly (UNEA4) in early 2019. Topics discussed included new and existing areas of potential cooperation including trade, environment and health, lead paint, marine litter, food waste, and air quality. OITA will continue the dialogue on these topics with UN Environment's Regional Office for North America and will consider strategies for strengthening cooperation on lead paint and marine litter in particular. OITA will

also provide information for high level advocacy on raising the prominence of pollution exposure as part in international dialogue on non-communicable diseases, as requested by UN Environment. [Nishida, Smith, Finman, MacDonald, Rourke]

Meeting of the Lead Strategy Subcommittee of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health/Safety Risks to Children

OITA participated in a meeting of the Lead Strategy Subcommittee of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health/Safety Risks to Children. The President's Task Force includes 17 US Federal agencies with activities to address risks to children from lead. The lead strategy subcommittee is currently considering public comments on the Federal Lead Strategy, which is planned to be finalized later this year. OITA's Lead Paint Alliance work is included in the strategy. [Bandemehr]

Engagement of NCD Child to Address Lead Paint

OITA organized a telephone conversation with Dr. Mychelle Farmer, chair of NCD Child, to discuss opportunities for collaboration. NCD Child is a global multi-stakeholder coalition championing the rights and needs of children, adolescents, and young people living with or at risk of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Dr. Farmer offered to present lead paint materials to the NCD Child Governing Council, which takes place this week and includes several priority regions for the Lead Paint Alliance. Dr. Farmer also shared opportunities to elevate the topic of lead paint at the upcoming World Health Assembly in May 2018. This conversation was a result of our consultation with the American Academy of Pediatrics in January. [Marzouk, Bandemehr]

Meeting with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to discuss Draft Lead Paint Law of the Ukraine

OITA, OCSPP, OGC, and OECA met with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to discuss questions from the paint industry that the Government of the Ukraine received on their draft lead paint law. EPA was asked to review these questions by United Nations Environment and met with CPSC to receive extra assistance on our draft response. CPSC was very helpful and offered to continue to help as future questions come up from other countries as they develop their laws. EPA expects to receive additional requests for assistance on developing laws as countries start to follow the recently finalized model law for lead paint. [Bandemehr]

2-15-18

OITA Meeting with The World Bank (WB) Blue Team

OITA PDAA Jane Nishida, Sarah Greenwalt, Senior Counsel to the Administrator and staff from OGAP, ORBA and OW met with members of the World Bank's (WB) Blue (oceans) team to discuss areas of shared interest concerning marine pollution, with a focus on marine litter and the green ports and vessels initiative. Other topics included areas of existing or potential cooperation on lead paint and mercury. OITA and OW plan to share technical information on these topics with the WB through follow-up discussions. [Nishida, Sims, Chen and Horan]

Lecture and Panel Discussion on Eradicating Childhood Lead Exposure

OITA and OCSPP attended a lecture and panel discussion on how the US can eradicate childhood lead exposure, which was hosted by Child Trends, a non-profit organization focusing on research and policy to improve children's lives. The lecture featured Dr. Mary Jean Brown, EPA's former Center for Disease Control and Prevention counterpart for work on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) and current expert lecturer at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Policy. Dr. Brown spoke about why lead is still a problem in the U.S., as well as potential paths toward elimination of childhood lead exposure in the U.S. and the developing world, including through banning lead paint. EPA met with Dr. Brown before the lecture and spoke with attendees, including the Director and Chief Operating Officers of Child Trends, and staff from the Pew Charitable Trust and the National League of Cities about EPA's international work with the Lead Paint Alliance. They thought it was important work and agreed to provide additional contacts in the health sector, a stakeholder group of increasing importance to highlight lead paint hazards to encourage developing countries to put in place lead paint laws. [Bandemehr]

OITA Staff Meet with Library of Congress' Global Legal Research Directorate

OITA and OGC staff met with Foreign Law Specialists at the Library of Congress' Global Legal Research Directorate (GLRD) to learn more about the services provided by the GLRD and how they could benefit EPA. The GLRD serves all research needs of the United States Congress, judicial branch, and executive agencies related to foreign, international, and comparative law. Multilingual staff of about thirty Foreign Law Specialists, who are attorneys and legal scholars trained in the U.S. and abroad, prepare reports, legal memoranda, briefs, and publications for the Members and Committees of Congress and other government offices on all aspects of foreign, comparative, and international law. The GLRD boasts the world's largest collection of law books and other legal resources, including all official publications available from all countries in the vernacular language. The collection comprises of more than 2.9 million items. [Vauter, Ankrah, Bandemehr, Muehling, Marzouk, Wolfson]

SAICM LAC Regional Follow-Up

Following the January 2018 regional meeting of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, OITA/OGAP and OCSPP convened a call with United Nations Environment Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) to discuss next steps to tackle the issue of lead paint in the region. ROLAC provided a readout from the SAICM LAC meeting in Panama and noted that Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Honduras indicated that they are all seeking to take action on lead paint. ROLAC also informed EPA that powerpoint presentation materials developed in collaboration with OITA will be used by ROLAC at the upcoming Council of Ministers of Central America, a meeting of the Ministers of Environment for the region taking place in the Dominican Republic. In addition to the SAICM meeting, ROLAC and EPA discussed following up with Jamaican officials from the Ministry of Health on lead paint testing in Jamaica and how to accelerate action and decisions on lead paint in Jamaica. ROLAC committed to finalizing and distributing the final report on the Jamaica Lead Paint workshop and working with EPA to support regional efforts, including facilitating lead paint testing by IPEN and starting legal drafting committees, beginning with Jamaica. In addition to the SAICM LAC meeting, EPA has been working with UNEP to provide lead paint materials for SAICM Regional meetings taking place in Africa and Central and Eastern European. [Huber, Bandemehr]

3-1-18

Engaging with the Paint Industry on International Lead Paint Elimination

This week OGAP hosted meetings between the global paint industry association, the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), UN Environment and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI) on efforts to promote international lead paint elimination through the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). IPPIC supports the establishment of lead paint laws and provided input on the Lead Paint Alliance Model Law and Guidance on regulating lead paint. However, up until recently, IPPIC has only been peripherally involved in promoting lead paint laws in the Lead Paint Alliance. For the new project of UN Environment, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility, UN Environment invited IPPIC to join in the efforts to provide the industry perspective to promote laws. In the meeting, UN Environment explained the goals of the project and IPPIC provided an overview of the activities they would be able to support, such as providing technical expertise on best practices. In the meeting with ABA/ROLI, which is also a partner in the UN Environment GEF Project, IPPIC welcomed engaging with the legal community and offered to work closely with ABA and other UN Environment project partners. For example, IPPIC offered provide training for ABA and other project partners on lead paint additives and their alternatives. These meetings further demonstrated the commitment of IPPIC and its member associations are fully committed to help eliminate lead paint globally. [Bandemehr]

3-8-18

EPA Spearheads International Lead Paint Alliance Review of Draft Brazilian Lead Paint Law

This week EPA (OITA, OCSPP, OECA, OGC) finalized and submitted joint comments with the UN Environment Secretariat of the Lead Paint Alliance on a draft Brazilian lead paint law. Brazil is revising an existing lead paint law to reduce the lead paint limit (from 600 ppm to 90 ppm, which is the recommended limit by the Lead Paint Alliance and also the US limit and the limit increasingly being implemented around the world). The draft law also includes other improvements, such as clearer compliance provisions. EPA worked with UN Environment, the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative and IPEN, an international environmental NGO specializing in lead paint elimination, to review and comment on the draft law in comparison to a Model Law that was developed by the Lead Paint Alliance. EPA continues to work with UN Environment through the Lead Paint Alliance to promote lead paint laws in other countries and expects that in coming years more countries will adopt lead paint laws. Lead paint is the major source of lead exposure for children in developing countries. [Bandemehr, Mercurio]

Lead Paint Training for Environment, Science and Technology (ESTH) Officers in US Embassies in Caribbean

This week EPA (OITA, OCSPP) and the Department of State (DOS) held a training session as part of a series of webinars on lead paint for ESTH officers in US Embassies. This week's training was with ESTH officers in Caribbean and participating country officers included Costa Rica, and the ESTH regional hub office. ESTH officers are US Embassy staff assigned to cover environment issues, among other things, and can help promote environmental policies with their host country governments. Lead paint laws are the only effective way to eliminate lead paint and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, which is chaired by EPA, offers many useful tools to help countries accomplish this. The lead paint training provided background about why lead paint is a problem internationally, what can be done to solve the problem and suggestions about how ESTH officers can help promote lead paint laws in their region. The ESTH officers expressed interest in the issue and interest in receiving more information from EPA and DOS for outreach to their counterparts. In particular, there was interest in discussing what has been done in the region, especially the recently-conducted Caribbean workshop in Kingston, Jamaica; the upcoming Global Environment Facility project which will present opportunities for action in the region; and how ESTH can follow up in country. A second training for the region is being discussed and future ESTH officer training is planned for the Middle East and Southeast Asia [Bandemehr, Huber, Harrington, Marzouk, McCann, Sellars, Leonard]

3-22-18

EPA Briefs ESTH Committee at the US Embassy in Brazil on the Status of Brazil's Draft Lead Paint Law

EPA (OCSPP/OPPT and OITA/OGAP) provided an update on the status of Brazil's draft lead paint law. Brazil is in the process of revising its existing lead paint law, which was never successfully implemented, resulting in high lead paint levels. EPA worked with UN Environment and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative to review the draft and provide comments to Brazil. The revised draft law seeks to improve enforcement by naming the agency in charge and by setting a stringent lead paint limit on all types of paints. The approach taken in the draft law is based on a Model Law on Lead Paint, which was developed by UN Environment for the Lead Paint Alliance with assistance from EPA. The Brazilian government consulted with industry, NGOs and all relevant government agencies to develop the revised law, which would bring Brazil in line with the lead paint standard followed by many countries, including the U.S. If Brazil adopts the law it will be a good model for other countries in the region and beyond. Post indicated it could lend assistance in tracking progress of finalization of the law and possibly help promote adoption of the law. [Bandemehr, Mercurio, Hill-Macon]

4-5-18

Meeting on World Bank Lead Paint Report

This week EPA (OITA/OGAP, OGC) met with the World Bank to discuss progress toward finalizing a World Bank Lead Paint Report. EPA and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been providing technical input to the World Bank report, which is slated to be

finalized later this year. The report will describe the lead paint issue and the solution, which is to establish lead paint laws. It will highlight the *Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint*, which is the main tool of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance) to promote and develop laws in developing countries. The World Bank also plans to use the publication as a basis for an online course, which they would provide to developing country officials as part of their country assistance projects. In addition, they are planning on exploring promoting the report through their governance efforts. EPA, CDC and the World Bank will meet next week to discuss remaining needed edits to the report and timeline for completion. [Smith, Bandemehr]

Meeting with Paint Industry and American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

This week EPA (OGAP, OCSPP) met with the American Coatings Association, which is the Secretariat for the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI). IPPIC and ABA/ROLI both support the goals of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance or Alliance). This meeting is the first in-person meeting between the two organizations, which aim to work closely with EPA and the Alliance to promote lead paint laws in developing countries. ABA has a resolution calling all members to support this goal. And IPPIC told EPA and ABA/ROLI in the meeting that they will be highlighting their support for the recently launched UN Environment *Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint* (Model Law). In addition, IPPIC pledged to identify global regional industry champions and to assist with establishment and implementation of lead paint laws. [Bandemehr]

4-12-18

EPA Participates in Launch Call for 2018 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

OITA participated in a conference call this week to begin preparations for the annual 2018 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which will take place during the last week of October. Last year this activity generated awareness-raising events in more than 67 cities in at least 44 countries and generated more than 30 media articles. Local events included engagement of government delegations, petition campaigns, and increased national enforcement of existing lead paint laws. This year, the campaign will focus on encouraging countries to work toward laws to regulate lead paint at the U.S. standard of 90 ppm, in the context of a GEF Flagship Project beginning soon. The call was hosted by OSCPP, with participation from UNEP, WHO, and NGO partner IPEN. As part of the call, OITA encouraged improved data gathering via registration information, to understand how materials are being used and what goals are being achieved during the week. EPA also committed to develop an initial draft of the program resource pack. These calls will now continue on a regular basis through October. [Marzouk]

Preparation for Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council Meeting

EPA, the Chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance or Alliance), held a preparatory call with the Secretariat of the Alliance (UN Environment and the World Health Organization) for an upcoming Advisory Council meeting on April 19. The Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council is comprised of Alliance partners representing each major stakeholder group in the Alliance: industry, environmental NGOs, health NGOs, international organizations and governments. The Advisory Council provides feedback to the Secretariat and Chair of Alliance on strategies and actions towards eliminating lead paint. EPA and the Secretariat finalized the agenda for the meeting, which includes updates on partner activities, a Global Environment Facility Project on Lead Paint, the Alliance web site, new partners and upcoming outreach events. [Smith, Bandemehr]

Lead Paint Progress in the Central and Eastern European Region

This week EPA (OITA/OGAP, OGC), the Department of Commerce, the World Health Organization and UN Environment held a meeting to provide an update on progress in the Central and Eastern European region on lead paint. WHO reported that Kazakhstan is interested in revising its existing lead paint technical regulation that was based on air quality measurements for lead. We also learned that the Ministry of Health had not been aware of the dangers of lead in dust that can result from lead paint. EPA and DOC will provide research papers translated into Russian that illustrate that lead paint is the major source of lead in dust. The US Centers for Disease Control Office in Kazakhstan may assist with dust sampling. WHO provided the government with existing lead paint data collected by a local environmental NGO that show extremely high levels of lead in paint. WHO also reported out on a Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management Regional Meeting which was held in Poland in February, where lead paint was a topic of great interest to governments. WHO noted the importance of following up at the country level to continue to build on this interest. EPA noted that the UNEP has funding that will enable some of this outreach in targeted countries. [Bandemehr]

4-19-18

EPA Chairs Meeting of Advisory Council of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

This week OGAP chaired a very well attended meeting of the Advisory Council of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), hosted by the UN Environment Program and the World Health Organization. The Lead Paint Alliance is a broadly supported partnership working to eliminate lead paint globally with the Secretariat provided by the UN Environment Program and the World Health Organization. The Advisory Council, which is chaired by EPA, is comprised of a representative subset of Lead Paint Alliance partners and provides guidance to the activities of the Alliance. All but a few Advisory Council members participated in the meeting and included the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (paint industry), IPEN (an international environmental NGO), the European Chemicals Agency, and the governments of Colombia and Moldova. The meeting provided an overview of the extensive, recent progress of

the Alliance, which includes a UNEA3 resolution, American Bar Association resolution and Model Law on Lead Paint. The meeting also provided information on an upcoming Global Environment Facility project on lead paint, status of lead paint laws in fast-track countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Jamaica, Ukraine and Moldova), and Alliance brand identity guidelines. US EPA, which has been very engaged in improving the Alliance web presence, presented the new UN Environment web site, which has been updated and improved. Each Advisory Council member reported out on its activities. IPPIC announced that it will be promoting the model law on its web site. IPEN stated it had conducted lead paint testing in 19 countries last year and is planning more testing this year. Moldova has a draft lead paint law. Colombia is developing guidance for government and industry on lead paint. The European Union reported that it may see a request for an extension of the exception EU REACH granted to use lead paint in certain applications, but that it is seeing waning use of lead-based paints in Europe. The Advisory Council will meet again in the Fall of 2018. [Smith, Marzouk, Bandemehr]

4-26-18

Engagement with Israel on Addressing Lead in Paint and Products

Staff from OGAP, ORBA and OSCPP began conversations with representatives of the Israeli Ministry of Health (MOH) about addressing lead in paint and children's products in Israel. The teleconference was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Israel, and also attended by a representative from the Department of State. EPA provided presentations on the U.S. approach to regulating lead in paint and children's toys, and an overview of the Lead Paint Alliance including the Model Law, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project, and International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018. The Israel MOH described the national approach to setting standards, results of recent pilot testing on paint and products, and challenges and opportunities in working with industry. Israel is one of the named countries in the draft GEF Project, which will begin implementation later this year, and also expressed interest in playing a leadership role with other countries in the region. This meeting was a result of advance team efforts for the postponed EPA Administrator trip to Israel in February. The group agreed to schedule additional calls to explore next steps on this topic and discuss other topics related to lead exposure. [Marzouk, Mercurio, Bandemehr]

EPA Meets with UN Environment Program and World Health Organization on Lead Paint

Last week OGAP met with senior officials at the UN Environment Program and the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland for strategic planning meetings on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). UN Environment and WHO are the Secretariat of the Alliance and EPA is the Chair. Both UN organizations expressed their ongoing commitment to the Lead Paint Alliance and the importance of a successful outcome of establishing lead paint laws in every country. Both organizations are staffing up to provide increased support and committed to concrete follow up action items to continue to improve visibility and effectiveness of the Alliance. UN Environment will continue to improve the Alliance web site and focus on outreach to high level policy makers to promote lead paint laws. WHO will work to update the Alliance contact database to enable ongoing communication with Alliance partners. Among other outcomes, the participants agreed to produce a bi-annual newsletter to keep partners and other interested organizations apprised of what is expected to be increasing progress toward the goal of global elimination of lead paint. [Smith, Bandemehr]

Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council Meeting

Last week the Lead Paint Alliance held a bi-annual Advisory Council meeting. The Advisory Council of the Lead Paint Alliance is chaired by EPA and comprises a representative set of partners from business, environmental and health NGOs, developing country governments (Moldova, Colombia and Kenya) and regional organizations (European Commission). The substantive presentations and robust discussion in the meeting demonstrated the increasing momentum toward the Alliance goal to establish lead paint laws in every country. Industry representatives from the International Paint and Printing Ink Council underscored their commitment to promoting lead paint laws, working with governments and seeking regional champions to assist with development and implementation of laws. Environmental NGO representatives from IPEN reported on their extensive lead paint test results from the past year and planned new testing in the coming year. Government representatives reported on concrete actions toward lead paint laws. The UN Environment program briefed Council members on the upcoming Global Environment Facility project and EPA presented UN Environment's revamped web site for the Alliance. WHO provided an evaluation of the outcomes of all International Lead Weeks of Action, which have been conducted annually since 2013, resulting in ever increasing participation in the Week and awareness of the lead paint issue. [Smith, Marzouk, Bandemehr]

5-3-17

U.S. Council for International Business Webinar (USCIB)

USCIB invited OGAP to present at a webinar for member companies this week on "International Environmental and Health Policy Links." Member companies exchanged views on major international issues including antimicrobial resistance, water quality and pharmaceuticals, chemicals as an emerging issues within SAICM, the role of the private sector in addressing marine plastic litter, and practical constraints on implementing European chemical regulations under REACH. OGAP highlighted EPA's long-standing role as a health agency and discussed: our ongoing work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote action on environmental risk factors as part of their efforts on non-communicable diseases (NCDs); our efforts with UNEP on air quality and follow up activities on monitoring where there could be a positive role for private sector engagement; our leadership on eliminating exposure to lead paint through active cooperation with governments, academia and the private sector and UNEP and WHO; the history of cooperation on addressing mercury exposure through the Minamata Convention; the increasing importance of marine litter internationally; and our efforts to promote healthy nutrition through reducing food loss and waste. Next steps include consultations to prepare for UNEA-4. [Smith, Finman]

5-17-18

Second Meeting with Israel on Lead Paint held Conference Call

On May 16, EPA, Chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, held a conference call with Israel regarding standards to address lead paint. EPA staff from OGAP, ORBA and OSCPP participated in the phone call with the Israel Ministry of Health (MOH) to discuss Israel's current standards and future plans to address lead in paint. New testing by Israel's Ministry of Economy has recently identified lead in paint labeled for consumer use with as much as 25,000 ppm total lead, orders of magnitude above the U.S. standard of 90 ppm. EPA shared views in support of creating mandatory standards which apply to all paints (both decorative and industrial), consistent with the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint (developed by the Global Alliance). Israel's MOH shared that they have already submitted a standard for consideration which would require a mandatory limit of 90 ppm for decorative and playground use, and would consider a further, later standard to incorporate industrial paints. The national paint companies have generally been in support of the current proposed standard, to prevent future legal and health challenges and to create a level playing field. EPA will explore providing connections to individuals through the Alliance to help Israel's industry meet new and proposed standards. [Marzouk, Bandemehr, Mercurio]

Meeting with International Paint Industry Association on Lead Paint

EPA (OITA/OGAP and OCSPP) met with the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC) to discuss international efforts on lead paint. IPPIC is an association representing regional associations of multi-national paint companies and is a partner of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance). The Alliance is a public-private partnership chaired by EPA. In the meeting, IPPIC reaffirmed its support for the promotion of lead paint laws globally and stated that it will note this support on its web site. IPPIC fully supports the ongoing and planned efforts of the Alliance to reach out to governments to assist with the development of lead paint laws. IPPIC representatives offered to help promote more industry engagement in the annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, where the message of lead paint elimination by the paint industry could be amplified. IPPIC will also develop an article for the Alliance newsletter in the fall and will update a training module on the paint industry in an online toolkit of the Alliance. Finally, IPPIC agreed to explore how to provide training to key Alliance partners on lead paint. [Marzouk, Bandemehr]

EPA Meeting with Chief of Chemicals & Health Branch at Economy Division of UNEP

EPA (OITA, OAR, and OSCPP) hosted a meeting with Jacob Duer, the Chief of Chemicals & Health Branch at Economy Division of UNEP, and the UNEP Office for North America to discuss shared priorities and collaborative efforts. OITA and UNEP discussed critical coordination issues regarding the Lead Paint Alliance and established next steps for actions related to recruitment of key partner agencies. EPA raised a key emerging policy issue – environmental risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) - and shared feedback with UNEP staff on ways they might contribute to this work, in partnership with the WHO and other UN agencies. The group also discussed the upcoming conference of the parties for the Minamata Convention as well as the Global Mercury Partnership, and how it might be best positioned and managed to support countries as they pursue actions to follow the Convention. EPA also raised the topic of air quality and requested follow up information on plans of the

Transport and Air Quality Unit, under the Chemicals and Health Branch, to develop and solicit country feedback on their implementation of two UNEA resolutions on air quality. Discussions and cooperation on all of these topics will continue at the working level. [Smith, Bailey, Finman, Sims, Rourk, Bandemehr, Ankrah, MacDonald, Besch, Vauter]

5-24-18

Collaboration with U.S. Embassy in Israel on Lead Paint

Staff from OITA along with OSCPP met with Chuck Ashley, Environment, Science & Technology, and Health Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel on Thursday, May 17, to continue our conversations about lead paint in Israel. EPA provided a debrief of recent conversations with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Israel, including the possibility of a U.S. expert speaking to Israeli stakeholders in industry and government on the topics of lead exposure and potential harm from lead in paint. The U.S. Embassy expressed interest in being involved in such an event. Follow up conversations between the MOH and the U.S. Embassy in Israel are underway. [Marzouk, Mercurio, Hill-Macon]

Interagency Meeting on UN Environment Program & UNEA-4

EPA participated in an interagency meeting hosted by the State Department to discuss preparations for next year's UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) and other issues related to cooperation with UN Environment. Given the UNEA-4 theme of Innovations for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production, EPA noted key areas that could be highlighted in a ministerial outcome document, such as food waste and air quality best practices and innovation. Areas for follow up from UNEA-3 could include lead paint. Noteworthy strategic initiatives and partnerships the US could highlight include EPIC-N and the LEO Network. The group also discussed strategies to engage the US private sector and encourage their participation in the global Science, Policy, and Business Forum as a way of demonstrating US leadership in innovative technologies, practices, and processes. EPA will continue to play a key role in interagency preparation through the meeting date of March 2019. [Smith, Finman, Besch, Rourk]

5-30-18

Jamaica Lead Paint Update

EPA, along with UN Environment, participated in a call with the Jamaican Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation to get an update on the latest developments and identify next steps in Jamaica's effort to establish a lead paint law. In December of 2017, EPA helped to convene a workshop to create awareness around the issues surrounding lead paint, and introduce the Lead Paint Alliance Model Law. Following the issuance of the workshop report, the government of Jamaica hosted a national stakeholder meeting this past week with key government actors, local

NGOs, and industry to discuss a process moving forward establish mandatory legal limits on lead in paint. GoJ is enthusiastic about implementing initiatives to do lead paint testing and public awareness raising in hopes of instituting a law in the near future. [Bandemehr, Mccann, Huber, Harrington]

6-28-18

State Department Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Officer Training

OITA hosted a cohort of 26 State Department ESTH Officers for a training session before they departed for their respective posts. OITA highlighted a wide variety of multilateral and bilateral initiatives with which the ESTH officers could engage EPA to achieve measurable results during their tours of duty. Additionally, OECA presented on EPA's international enforcement initiatives which would be of relevance to the class. Following the presentations, the "meet-and-greet" allowed EPA's program specialists to forge connections with the soon to be departing ESTH Officers. The ESTH Officers will use the information learned in EPA's training session to advance US priorities in their posts overseas. [Smith, Shiffman, Doroski, Harrington]

EPA Meets with International Paint Industry Association on Lead Paint

OGAP met with the International Paint and Printing Ink council (IPPIC) Secretariat, which is hosted by the American Coatings Association. IPPIC is a partner of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance) and supports the Alliance goal of establishing lead paint laws globally. The Alliance is led by UN Environment and the World Health Organization (WHO) and chaired by EPA. At this meeting, EPA sought input from IPPIC on a variety of issues, including revisions to the Alliance Model Law to Regulate Lead Paint and actions industry can take to promote lead paint elimination. IPPIC is seeking regional industry champions to assist with Alliance efforts to help countries establish laws. It is working through its Sustainability Committee, which is chaired by the German paint industry, and is working on ways to share industry technical information and experience and how to help with implementation of laws, once they are passed. They are also seeking to develop easy-to-understand guidance for the paint industry on actions they can take to phase out lead paint. [Smith, Bandemehr]

7-6-18

U.S. Department of State Lead Paint Instructions to Embassies World-Wide

This week the U.S. Department of State (DOS) sent instructions via cable to US embassy posts in 70 countries for discussions with host country governments about the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). The cable provides background and talking points to encourage governments to establish lead paint laws. The cable is also being used as guidance by US Agencies working abroad. The US Department of Commerce is using the cable to inform its

discussions with Standards Officials to establish recommendations on lead paint laws for the Central Asian region. DOS has been receiving expressions of interest from embassies and will coordinate with EPA on follow up. EPA expects this cable will help generate interest in lead paint laws in advance of a UN Environment Global Environment Facility Project on Lead Paint, which will provide further technical assistance to countries to develop lead paint laws. [Smith, Bandemehr]

7-19-18

Collaboration with Israel to Address Lead in Paint

In our role as chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, OITA and OSCPP continued our dialogue with the Ministry of Health in Israel this week. The teleconference included discussion of a new revised standard to require all paints in Israel to have no more than 90 ppm lead. Israel plans a stakeholder meeting to discuss the new draft standard in early August. To help prepare for that meeting, EPA provided connections to the global paint industry, which supports the 90ppm standard, and to a civil society network for advice on testing lead in paint. EPA will also provide feedback on the draft standard, as requested. Israel is on the target list of countries for the upcoming Global Environmental Facility grant, which will be implemented by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. [Marzouk]

7-26-18

Ethiopia Promulgates a Lead Paint Law

Ethiopia is the fifth country in Sub-Saharan Africa to pass a lead paint law (the other countries are South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya and Cameroon). The Council of Ministers of Ethiopia promulgated a lead paint regulation on July 7, 2018, which prohibits the import, export, manufacture, distribution or sale of paints with a total lead concentration higher than 90 parts per million. This level is the one recommended by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint in its “Model Law and Guidance to Regulating Lead Paint” and is also the US standard. EPA helped develop the Model Law. EPA also participated in an Alliance workshop in East Africa that helped convince countries in that region to pass lead paint laws and where Ethiopia subsequently committed to passing their law. Countries in Africa and other regions are also beginning to follow suit and EPA is working with some of these countries to help them finalize their laws, using the Alliance Model Law as a guide. [Bandemehr]

8-2-18

US Embassy in Kazakhstan Working to Promote Lead Paint

This week OITA met with the US Embassy Environment, Science and Health (ESTH) officer and Regional Hub in Kazakhstan and the Department of Commerce Commercial (DOC) Law Development Program official to discuss how to promote lead paint laws in Kazakhstan and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The ESTH Officer reported that he had reached out to his counterparts in Kazakhstan's Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs per instructions in a demarche from the State Department in Washington, which EPA helped develop. This is one of several follow up efforts as a result of this demarche. The Kazakh officials told the ESTH officer that lead paint laws are currently on hold in the EAEU and in Kazakhstan. One of the reasons for this is lack of information on the technical underpinnings for the lead paint standard recommended in the model law. EPA and DOC will provide relevant technical information that the Embassy can share with Kazakh officials to advance this effort. The US Embassy in Kazakhstan is interested in continuing to promote lead paint laws and capacity building and is looking for additional resources at State to support this effort. They will involve EPA and DOC in planning future efforts. [Buckley, Bandemehr]

8-9-18

Successful Israeli Stakeholder Meeting Recommends 90 ppm Lead Standard for All Paints

In EPA's role as chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), an international partnership with a Secretariat comprised of UN Environment and the World Health Organization, OITA and OSCPP are working with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Israel toward the establishment of a protective standard to address lead in paint. Over the last several weeks, EPA has worked with the MOH to prepare for a stakeholder meeting scheduled for August 5. The MOH reported this week that at that meeting, the stakeholders committee at the Israeli Standards Institute voted unanimously in favor of restricting lead in paint beginning January 1, 2021 to 90 ppm in all paints, including industrial paints, which is the standard recommended by the Lead Paint Alliance. One of the key drivers of this consensus was a stakeholder roundtable organized by MOH and OITA with the U.S. Embassy in Israel this June, which discussed the importance and feasibility of phasing out lead in all paints. The next step will be coordinating with the Ministry of Economy in Israel to ensure the standard is made mandatory and is well enforced. To support this effort, OITA is working to arrange meetings with the Ministry of the Economy and Ministry of Health during an OITA/ORBA upcoming trip to Israel at the end of August. [Marzouk, Bandemehr, Gonzalez, Kuklinski]

Incoming US Deputy Permanent Representative to the US-UN Mission in Nairobi Meets with EPA

This week OITA hosted a meeting with Dan Carl, the new Deputy Permanent Representative to the US-UN Mission in Nairobi, who was joined by, Beth Fernauld, Adam Bloomquist, and Alessandro Nardi from State. NOAA joined by phone for the first part of the meeting to discuss efforts related to the 2nd Ad-hoc Open Ended Expert Group Meeting (AHOEEG) to be held at the

end of November. The group discussed how Dan could help the marine litter interagency group to gain insight into other countries' positions on AHOEEG issues, to gain a better understanding of the AHOEEG process leading up to the meeting and ensuring the US positions on agenda development, inputs and outcomes are shared with the organizers and other appropriate people in Nairobi. Additionally, OITA shared information on other collaboration between EPA and the UN Environment Programme, including on air quality, lead paint, and food waste. The Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN will play an important role in preparing for the next UN Environment Assembly, to take place in March 2019, and EPA will continue to work together closely with them in preparation for that meeting. [Finman, Besch, Sims, Bandemehr, MacDonald, Adrian]

Meeting with Vietnam Chemicals Agency on Lead Paint

This week EPA (OITA/OGAP and OCSPP) chaired a meeting with the Vietnamese Chemicals Agency, the World Health Organization, and UN Environment's Regional Office for Asia Pacific to discuss next steps toward eliminating lead paint in Vietnam. In a previous meeting, Vietnam reported that there was high level support for this work. EPA suggested conducting a webinar on the Lead Paint Model Law as a next step, but Vietnam noted that language barriers prohibit remote communication. Vietnam welcomed EPA's subsequent suggestion of a face-to-face meeting in September with an EPA official (from OGC), who will be in Vietnam for other work. EPA will work with Vietnam, WHO and UN Environment to develop an agenda and presentation materials. [Bandemehr]

EPA-State Department Coordinated Outreach to Countries Shows Interest in Lead Paint

EPA (OITA/OGAP and OCSPP) met with the US State Department this week to discuss responses to a State Department June 2018 demarche to US Embassies in 70 countries. To date, almost half of the embassies have reported that they conducted the requested outreach on lead paint with their foreign government counterparts. Many countries expressed an interest in joining the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and asked for more information about how to establish lead paint laws. EPA and the State Department will collaborate on substantive, short- and long-term follow up for 17 countries spanning all regions of the world. As additional responses are received, EPA and the State Department will work on additional outreach efforts. With this outreach, the US hopes to spur momentum toward lead paint laws and EPA will provide technical assistance to targeted countries to draft these laws. The outreach effort also seeks to garner interest in an upcoming UN Environment Global Environment Facility-funded Project, which will work closely with countries to develop lead paint laws. [Bandemehr]

The Caribbean Community Requests Comments on its Lead Paint Standard

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a Caribbean regional economic body, posted a lead paint standard for water-borne paints for comments by this week. EPA coordinated comments provided by staff in the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and USEPA. UNEP serves as the co-Secretariat, along with the World Health Organization, of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). USEPA serves as the Chair of the Lead Paint Alliance. EPA also obtained input from Lead Paint Alliance partners, the American Bar Association and IPEN, an environmental NGO. The CARICOM draft regional standard was compared with the "Model

Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint” (Model Law) that was developed for the Lead Paint Alliance by UN Environment. The standard follows the Model Law by setting a 90 ppm standard but only for water-borne paints, which are not usually high in lead content. It is the oil-based paints that are most often high in lead content. Also, the comments noted that the standard will have no actual effect unless its limit on lead is made legally-binding and enforceable at national levels by CARICOM member countries. Nonetheless, the draft CARICOM standard is a sign that this issue is gaining international visibility and EPA will continue to work with the Lead Paint Alliance to ensure that effective standards are developed. [Bandemehr]

8-16-18

Global Environment Facility (GEF) UN Environment Lead Paint Project Approved

Last week a UNEP GEF Project on Lead Paint was approved for \$3.05 million dollars. It is part of a larger project to address chemicals, which will be implemented by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat. The Project supports the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), which EPA chairs and for which UNEP and WHO provide the Secretariat. The goal of the Project is to establish laws in at least 40 countries by 2020 and to demonstrate best practices for lead paint elimination in small and medium sized enterprises. It will be managed by the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, which will work with the World Health Organization, IPEN (an NGO partner of the Lead Paint Alliance), the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, and a number of UNEP/United Nations Industrial Development Organization Cleaner Production Centers. EPA and the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (a global paint industry association partner of the Alliance) are providing in-kind support to the project. EPA expects this project to generate additional momentum to growing interest in lead paint, in part galvanized by the recent resolution by the UN Environment Assembly and the publication of the Model Law and Guidance to Regulate Lead Paint, both of which EPA helped develop. [Smith, Bandemehr]

UN Environment Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on Actions under the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

EPA (OITA/OGAP, OCSPP) attended a meeting hosted by UN Environment and attended by the World Health Organization, UN Environment’s Regional Office for Asia Pacific and IPEN, an NGO partner of the Alliance. The goal of this meeting was to coordinate the various ongoing efforts of Alliance partners providing technical assistance to countries in the region. EPA has been working closely with Vietnam and Cambodia, which do not yet have laws, and is seeking to increase dialogue in China, which has laws but needs help with enforcement. IPEN has worked extensively in Asia, facilitating the passage of lead paint laws in the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka. They have conducted recent testing on lead in paint in recent years, such as in

Pakistan, Vietnam and China, to raise awareness about the issue. These countries and several others from the region will be the focus of an upcoming Global Environment Facility Project to provide technical assistance to develop laws. Several regional events, such as a regional health and environment ministerial in 2020, also pose opportunities to galvanize action on lead paint. [Bandemehr]

Meeting with US Embassy Regional Officer for West and Central Africa

Last week EPA met with the incoming regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health (ESTH) Officer, Jonathan Kelsey, to discuss possible lead paint activities in the region. Andrew Clark from the US State Department Office of Environment and Science (OES) also attended and provided an overview of responses to an OES cable on lead paint in the region. EPA presented information about the World Health Organization Resource Package for conducting lead paint elimination promotion activities during the 2018 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPW) and also provided an overview of EPA's ongoing efforts in the region to promote development of lead paint laws. Jonathan Kelsey showed interest in planning ILPPW events and in helping to support EPA's works in the region. Several target countries discussed included Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Ghana. EPA also indicated that coordination across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) would help promote a regional standard on lead paint. Work in ECOWAS will be a focus of the upcoming UNEP GEF Project on lead paint. OGAP also discussed working with the ESTH to address the prevalent use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in the area. [Bandemehr, Kuklinski]

8-23-18

US Develops Lead Paint Alliance Model Law Translation into Russian

Last week EPA and the US Department of Commerce finished translating and formatting the Russian translation of the Lead Paint Alliance Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint. The Model Law was recently updated to incorporate several editorial and technical adjustments to further improve the effectiveness of the model language. The Model Law is available in English, Spanish and Russian, with Chinese and Arabic translations to come soon. It will be disseminated through a Global Environment Facility lead paint project during the 2018 International Poisoning Prevention Week of Action at the end of October. The Model Law is the principal tool to assist countries in eliminating lead paint through establishing lead paint laws. [Bandemehr]

UN Environment Latin America and Caribbean Regional call on Lead Paint

Last week, UN Environment hosted a Latin America and Caribbean Regional call to coordinate efforts among Lead Paint Alliance partners engaged with helping countries establish lead paint laws. Participants included the World Health Organization, IPEN (an Alliance partner NGO), the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, EPA and UN Environment's Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean and Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean. Countries undertaking activities include Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Jamaica, Argentina and Brazil. In addition, EPA reported out on its recent coordination of Alliance comments on the Caribbean Community lead paint standard. EPA updated the group on a GEF project in the Caribbean, Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States, which is seeking guidance from the Alliance to include lead paint activities in its workplan. [Bandemehr]

Jamaica holds Second Lead Paint Stakeholder Meeting

The Jamaican Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation is holding a second stakeholder meeting regarding "Phase –Out of Lead in Paints" on Friday 24 August 2018. The objective of this meeting is to discuss and agree on appropriate measures to be undertaken nationally for the phase out of lead in paints. The development of legislation using the Lead Paint Alliance Model Law and Guidance on Regulating Lead Paint is one of the topics of discussion. EPA has been working with Jamaica through the Lead Paint Alliance since last December. Since then, the Jamaican government and key stakeholders agreed to pursue establishing lead paint laws. An initial stakeholder meeting was held in June and next steps included conducting lead paint testing to evaluate the extent of the problem in Jamaica. EPA and Alliance partners will continue to provide legal assistance, including through the upcoming GEF Project on lead paint. [Harrington, Bandemehr]

9-6-18

Lead Paint Meeting in Israel

While on mission to Israel last week, ORBA Director Mark Kasman met with the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Health to discuss a new protective standard to limit lead in paint. In our role as Chair of the Lead Paint Alliance, EPA has been working with the Ministry of Health to develop this standard. Earlier in August, the stakeholder's committee at the Israeli Standards Institute voted unanimously in favor of restricting lead in paint beginning January 1, 2021 to 90 ppm in all paints, including industrial paints, which is the standard recommended by the Lead Paint Alliance in its Model Law. In Israel, the Ministry of the Economy has the authority to make this standard mandatory and to set an enforcement schedule. During the meeting, EPA expressed strong support for Israel's effort to eliminate lead in paint, via the new standard. Our contact at the Ministry of Health reported that the meeting had effectively communicated the importance of this issue to the key representative at the Ministry of Economy. Further conversations with the Ministry of Health are planned for later this week. [Marzouk, Bandemehr, Hill-Macon, Kuklinski, Gonzalez]

Materials Launch for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

The U.S. stopped the manufacture and import of lead paint for consumer uses in 1978, but lead-containing paint is still an important source of lead exposure globally. EPA will continue to play a leadership role this year in the sixth annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW), which will take place during the week of October 21-27, 2018. During the week, governments, academia, industry and civil society in many countries take actions to promote efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning, specifically promoting the development of laws to eliminate lead paint. Last year, over 67 ILPPW events took place in 44 countries. To support these activities, a resource package and other graphic materials are now available from the World Health Organization in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic at [[HYPERLINK "http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/materials/en/"](http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/materials/en/)]. OITA and OSCPP have played a leadership role in the organization of the campaign and development of materials, and OITA began a social media campaign in coordination with WHO and UNEP to promote the materials this week. [Marzouk, Bandemehr, Dieu]

Briefing on the Lead Paint Model Law to the Director of the Global Network of National Cleaner Production Centers

EPA (OGAP, OCSPP) provided a briefing on the Lead Paint Alliance “Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint” for Branko Dunjic, the Director of the global network of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs), also known as the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Network or RECPNet. UN Environment also attended the briefing. Several of the NCPCs will be involved in the UNEP Lead Paint GEF Project. The Director of the RECPNet will be overseeing their work under the project. It is important for the NCPCs to understand the Model Law, because it will be at the center of the technical assistance provided to countries to develop laws as part of the project. NCPCs will assist in this effort by working with industry, particularly small businesses, to help them understand why lead paint elimination is important and how to get lead out of paint. Mr. Dunjic found the briefing helpful and agreed that it should be disseminated to the entire RECPNet. EPA will continue working with the NCPCs through the GEF Project to ensure that lessons learned in their work with industry are taken into account in the development of laws. [Bandemehr]

9-13-18

Study Shows Paints in The Gambia have High Levels of Lead

In August, IPEN, a partner NGO of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance), published a report on paint testing conducted in The Republic of The Gambia, which found high levels of lead in paint. All brands tested were imported to the country and a majority (62%) contained lead concentrations above 90 ppm, the limit set by the US and recommended by the Alliance. Almost half of the paints (41%) contained dangerously high lead concentrations (over 10,000 ppm). The highest concentration detected was 100,000 ppm and was found in a paint labelled “100% lead-free.” The study can be found at: [[HYPERLINK "https://ipen.org/news/study-](https://ipen.org/news/study-)

shows-paints-imported-gambia-contain-high-lead-content"]. IPEN has conducted lead paint testing in over 50 developing countries around the world and has found high levels of lead in paint in all but the few with effective lead paint laws, indicating the importance of the Alliance work to help countries develop laws. [Bandemehr]

Lead Paint Laws Workshop hosted by the World Bank

This week the World Bank Environment and Natural Resource Global Practice hosted a Lead Paint Laws workshop in collaboration with the World Health Organization, UN Environment and the EPA. WHO and UN Environment, which are the joint Secretariat of the Lead Paint Alliance, together with EPA as Chair, gave presentations about the works of the Lead Paint Alliance, the status of lead paint laws globally and efforts to provide technical assistance on laws and raise awareness to the dangers of lead paint. World Bank staff located in DC, India, Nigeria, England, and Laos participated. Several claimed that based on the presentations they are now convinced that lead paint is an important issue. The World Bank noted it could play a role in conducting research and analyses to support the Alliance, such as about the effectiveness of lead paint laws and how lead paint affects public health, as well as providing programmatic support to lead paint law development. Several possible World Bank lending mechanisms were also discussed, including Development Policy Loans and investments. The World Bank indicated interest in becoming a partner of the Alliance and reiterated its commitment to finalizing a Lead Paint Report in collaboration with EPA. [Bandemehr]

EPA Hosts Secretariat of the Lead Paint Alliance: WHO and UN Environment

This week EPA hosted staff from UN Environment and WHO, the joint Secretariat of the Lead Paint Alliance, to meet the members of EPA's Lead Paint Alliance team from OCSPP, OGC, OECA and OITA. EPA also facilitated a meeting with the UN Environment Regional Office for North America, which has been active in promoting the Alliance in North America and has facilitated outreach to country embassies in DC. The International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), a global paint industry partner of the Alliance, hosted a meeting with EPA, WHO, UN Environment and the American Bar Association. EPA also arranged for a tour of a lead paint laboratory in the area. Key topics of discussion in these meetings included the newly approved Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on lead paint, ways to promote lead paint laws and how to best coordinate efforts among the various Alliance and GEF Project partners. [Bandemehr, Marzouk, Harrington]

New York University School of Medicine Joins the Lead Paint Alliance

The New York University (NYU) School of Medicine announced that it joined the Lead Paint Alliance this week. NYU conducted ground-breaking research into the economic costs of childhood lead poisoning, estimating the global cost to be about 1 trillion dollars annually in developing countries. EPA worked with NYU to develop an online visualization tool for these results, where users can access the economic impact for specific countries. The tool can be accessed here: [[HYPERLINK "https://med.nyu.edu/departments-institutes/pediatrics/divisions/environmental-pediatrics/research/policy-initiatives/economic-costs-childhood-lead-exposure-low-middle-income-countries"](https://med.nyu.edu/departments-institutes/pediatrics/divisions/environmental-pediatrics/research/policy-initiatives/economic-costs-childhood-lead-exposure-low-middle-income-countries)]. NYU's School of Medicine is well-

known for its research into environmental health issues affecting children and has concluded that lead paint is the major source of lead poisoning for most children globally. [Bandemehr]

9-23-18

Vietnam Signals Wish to Become Lead Paint Alliance Partner

EPA (OGC, OITA, OCSPP) has been working with Vietnam to raise awareness about the importance of eliminating lead paint, holding several teleconferences as well as recent face to face meeting with EPA officials in Vietnam. A key result of these discussions is Vietnam's submittal of a partner request letter to the Lead Paint Alliance, demonstrating Vietnam's commitment to taking action on lead paint. The process for joining is that WHO and UN Environment receive request letters to approve new partners to the Alliance. EPA will continue to work with Vietnam, including through the Lead Paint GEF Project to be launched in November. [Bandemehr]

EPA meets with the Pan-American Health Organization on Lead Paint, Air Quality and Mercury

EPA (OGAP, OCSPP) met with Marcelo Korc of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to discuss recent accomplishments under the Lead Paint Alliance, joint air quality priorities and mercury issues. As part of the WHO, PAHO engages in Lead Paint Alliance work in the Latin American and Caribbean region, most recently attending a lead paint workshop in Jamaica in December last year. Mr. Korc offered to increase collaboration with EPA on lead paint in the region, offering to facilitate outreach to key PAHO networks and organizations to support the lead paint work. As PAHO's lead person on air quality and health, Marcello also expressed a strong interest in further engaging with EPA to promote a new emphasis on action to address air pollution in the context of PAHO's and WHO's work agenda on reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The group also discussed management of mercury in the health sector abroad and the development of public health strategies as an element of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plans (NAPs) being developed by countries with ASGM who have ratified the Minamata convention on Mercury. [Bandemehr, McDonald, Vauter]

EPA participates in a meeting of the Advisory Group to the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

EPA is a founding member of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), a UN Environment-led, public-private voluntary partnership, which promotes the introduction of clean fuels (lead-free and low sulfur) and advanced, clean vehicle technologies in developing countries. The PCFV was successful in phasing out lead in gasoline in all but one country (Algeria) and its success was the model for the Lead Paint Alliance work to eliminate lead paint. EPA is a member of the Advisory Group to the PCFV, which is made up of fuel and vehicle industry and government representatives. The Advisory Group discussed recent successes in

introducing low sulfur fuel standards and vehicle emissions standards in developing countries, where many governments have moved to lower fuel sulfur standards or have developed roadmaps to reach low levels of sulfur in fuels. The Advisory Group discussed a proposed guidance document on fuel sulfur removal developed by the international fuel industry. UN Environment also announced that it is applying for a GEF grant to conduct electric mobility work to promote clean electric vehicles in partnership with the International Energy Agency, the Asian Development Bank and other development banks. [Bandemehr]

State Department Environment, Science, Technology and Health (ESTH) Officer Training

OITA hosted one session in a series of trainings for State Department ESTH Officers for a training session prior to their departure for their respective posts. ESTH officers are Foreign Service officers located in embassies around the world who focus on ESTH issues within our bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relationships. OITA highlighted a wide variety of initiatives with which the ESTH officers could engage EPA to achieve measurable results during their tours of duty. Additionally, OECA gave a presentation on EPA's international enforcement initiatives which would be of relevance to the group. Following the presentations, the "meet-and-greet" allowed EPA's program specialists to forge connections with the soon to be departing ESTH Officers. The ESTH Officers will use the information learned in EPA's training session to advance US priorities in their posts overseas. [Smith, Shiffman, Harrington]

Delegates at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Agree on the Need to Establish Lead Paint Laws

UN Environment hosted a Lead Paint Alliance side event at the Seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), 17 – 19 September 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The session was opened by the UN Environment Regional Director for Africa and moderated by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States, which is assisting countries in that region to develop a regional lead paint standard. The event was attended by 60 delegates and emphasized the importance of lead paint laws. EPA did not attend but provided presentation materials about the status of lead paint laws in Africa to UN Environment. Participants agreed on the need to establish new or strengthen existing laws on lead paint and that governments should engage with industry and civil society in the development of laws. [Bandemehr]

9-27-18

Article in industry journals calls for action on lead paint

'We can't be green until lead is out of the scene,' a detailed article by Johnson Ongking, Pacific Paint (Boysen), will appear in the October editions of Polymers Paint Colour Journal (PPCJ) and Asia Pacific Coatings Journal (APCJ), as part of their annual 'Going Green' supplement. The article notes that while the Asian-Pacific paint industry has made advances in sustainability with greener products, the continued sales of lead paint threatens to overshadow all these eco-friendly paint innovations. The article describes the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and quotes

Walker Smith, among many of our other partners. The website of the APCJ may be viewed at <http://www.asiapacificcoatingsjournal.com/>. [Bandemehr, Marzouk]